manufacturing sector which registered a significant increase during this period.

(e) There are no measures to restrict imports or artificially balance trade that may led to dampening of the growth of the economy or lead to resurgence of inflationary pressures. However, export promotion is a constant endeavor of the Government and a Foreign Trade Policy was announced on 31st August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's overall share of global merchandise trade within the next *five* years.

Opening of Auction Centres of Tobacco Board

176. SHRI V. HANUMATHA RAO. Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand to open more auction centres of the Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the steps proposed to ensure that all tobacco farmers get their tobacco easily to the auction centres;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board will give any transport subsidy to farmers for bringing their tobacco to the auction centres;

(d) the steps proposed to increase such facilities for the tobacco farmers; and

(e) the measures proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tobacco Board is implementing cluster approach by rotation to ensure that all growers get equal opportunity to sell their tobacco.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Impact of Tsunami on Marine Exports

177. SHRI V. HANUMATHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: